

## Roll Call

Best wishes to **Michelle Ortwein** who served as the park’s curator and volunteer coordinator. Michelle has accepted a job at Edison NHS in West Orange, NJ.

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**Ann Marie Maher** joins the park as a marketing and public relations specialist. Previously, she was the Director of Tourism Sales for the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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**Kris Heister** rejoins us as the Natural Resource Manager. She worked at the park from 1992 to 2000 and most recently served as the Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator for the seven-park Mojave Network.

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Welcome to the new Project Manager, **Dennis McGinnis**. He’s a former Facility Manager at Delaware Water Gap NRA and Shenandoah NP.

## News in Brief

The Valley Forge Law Enforcement Rangers received the Northeast Regional Director’s Public Safety Award for the crosswalk sign program and new 911 system. Congratulations!

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An updated Environmental Management Plan has been approved and posted on the park’s website under “Management Docs.”

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The park has started planning to rehabilitate two areas. The Valley Forge Train Station and surrounding area will offer additional visitor orientation and enhanced interpretation, and the David Walker farmstead (on Thomas Road) will be leased for use as a pre-school. Please watch the park website ([www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo)) for information on how the public can comment on these projects through the development of environmental assessments.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Valley Forge National Historical Park**  
Web site: [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo)  
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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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## Valley Forge National Historical Park

National Park Service  
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# The Continental Chronicle

## New Partnerships Enhance Services

With another busy summer season just around the corner, the staff at Valley Forge National Historical Park are working hard to ensure that this year’s events are the most successful yet. The park is collaborating with a variety of partners in an effort to multiply the availability and quality of existing services as well as to introduce new programming.

### Unilever Grant Supports Staffing and Programming

Valley Forge NHP was selected for a *Healthy Parks- Healthy Living* grant from the National Park Foundation and Unilever, a Proud Partner of the NPS. It will provide funding for an intern to develop trail maps, bulletin board material, and programming aimed at recreational visitors. Additionally, the grant will assist with the innovative interpretative approaches such as podcasting.



An expanded partnership with the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau will enable Welcome Center Volunteers, such as Pete Peterson (left), to offer more services and improved assistance to park visitors.

### Interactive Program Connects Philadelphia with Valley Forge

*Once Upon A Nation* has joined with Valley Forge NHP to offer special interactive interpretive tours of the park on weekends this summer. Storytellers and park staff will teach visitors about the American Revolution and the 1777- 78 winter encampment through role- playing and site visits to Muhlenberg’s Brigade, Washington’s Headquarters, and the Washington Memorial Chapel.

**First Race will be Revolutionary**  
Upper Merion Township, Bryn Mawr Running Club, the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, and many more are working with the park to host the first- ever 5- mile Revolutionary Run on Sunday, April 23 at 8:30am. Proceeds from the race will benefit the rehabilitation of the park trail system.

### Volunteers Collaborate to Staff Visitor Services Desk

Volunteers with the National Park Service are teaming up with volunteers from the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau to integrate services at the information desk in the Welcome Center. “Instead of having two sets of staff operate two sides of the desk, we are going to enable our volunteers to assist visitors as one,” said Jeff Bransford, the park’s volunteer coordinator. Additional training will be offered to the volunteers with the goal of increasing their presence in the Welcome Center.



Fred Euganeo (right), the park’s mason, works with volunteers to rehabilitate a hut during a 2005 roofing project.

### Lockheed Martin Volunteers Spearhead Rebuilding Effort

Park staff continue to work on the replacement of the hut that burned due to arson in August 2005. Participants in the Lockheed Martin Network of Volunteer Associates (NOVA) have already donated many hours to prepare for primary construction, which will occur in April and May. Funding for the project has been made possible by the Valley Forge Interpretive Association.

### Bureau Aims to Enhance Commercial Tour Quality

Hundreds of commercial tours are conducted in the park each year by independent operators, each with varying themes, content, and accuracy. The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau has begun working with tour operators to identify the skills and knowledge desired by both the National Park Service and commercial tour companies. 🏰



# Park Watch Program to Begin Recruiting

Valley Forge NHP is finalizing details for the Park Watch Program and will hold a recruiting meeting this spring. The Park Watch Program is a new volunteer initiative at Valley Forge that will assist the park’s Ranger Activities Division.

According to Park Ranger John Waterman, the program’s coordinator, the primary duty of a Park Watch volunteer is to assist with the protection of park natural, cultural, historic, and human resources within Valley Forge NHP and to serve as extra “eyes and ears” for the rangers. Volunteers will assist with traffic and crowd control during special events, patrol park trails, provide visitors information on laws or regulations, and offer general park information.

Training will be provided to each Park Watch volunteer and may include emergency medical services and ride-along time with Law Enforcement Rangers. All interested parties must exhibit and maintain a high degree of public trust, complete all mandatory training, and participate in the program at least six hours per month.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Ranger Waterman at 610- 783- 1050 john\_waterman@nps.gov. An initial meeting is tentatively scheduled for late April.



# Archeology on Display

A special program aimed at engaging the public in resource protection was recently introduced in the park Welcome Center. Dr. David Orr, Park Archeologist, along with Douglas Campana and Julie Steele, Regional Archeologists, are methodically poring over the artifacts found during the Wayne's Woods (Pennsylvania brigade) archaeological project.



Dr. David Orr examines one of the hundreds of artifacts on display in the park’s Welcome Center.

Visitors can examine artifacts and interact with researchers as they work. “This is a dynamic process, and the objects on display change on a daily basis,” says Dr. Orr. “Artifacts may tell big stories or may help us understand broader messages about the Valley Forge encampment.”

Holding musket balls, gun parts, and other historic objects can help visitors make a connection with the life of a Continental soldier. According to Dr. Orr, archaeologists at Independence National Historical Park offered a similar exhibit last fall, “and the Valley Forge display is even more intimate and hands on.”

The ongoing program is staffed on weekends and select weekdays until 4:00pm through mid-April in the Welcome Center.

# Experience Your Valley Forge

**Earth Day**, Saturday, April 22 (9am - 1pm)  
Now in its 36th year, Earth Day is a time to celebrate successes we have made and create new visions to accelerate environmental preservation. Experience Valley Forge with a guided hike on the Grand Parade or the Joseph Plumb Martin Trail. The park will also host a variety of volunteer projects.

**Revolutionary Run**, Sunday, April 23 (8:30am)  
Join us for this five-mile run, which will start and finish at the Welcome Center. There will also be a three-mile walk and a one-mile fun run. Proceeds benefit rehabilitation of the park trail system.

**French Alliance Day**, Saturday & Sunday, May 6 & 7 (10am - 4pm)  
The army celebrated the news of the momentous alliance with France with cheers, musketry, and cannon fire. Join the troops for a recreation of this joyous occasion on the same grounds as the original celebration.

**National Trails Day**, Saturday, June 3 (9am - 3pm)  
Celebrate trails while participating in educational clinics, gear demonstrations, and trail work projects. You can get advice from experts and visit exhibits from some of the biggest names in outdoor adventure.

**March-out of the Army**, Saturday & Sunday, June 17 & 18 (10am - 4pm)  
After months of training, the Continental Army was ready to meet the British on equal terms. Celebrate the achievements of the soldiers by marching with the troops and viewing tactical demonstrations of muskets and artillery.

For more information call (610) 783-1099 or visit [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo)

# Signs of Progress: Getting to Valley Forge Made Easier

For many first-time visitors to Valley Forge, getting to the park can be a real challenge. Dan Carl, the park’s transportation planner, and Bernie Schweiker, with the Valley Forge Convention and Visitor Bureau, set out to address this issue by conducting an assessment of current road signs.

It became clear that improvements are needed in both the quality and location of signage. Park staff met with representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

(PennDOT) to review the findings of the highway sign evaluation and suggest improvements. PennDOT officials were receptive to the proposed changes, and already improvements have been made.

“Our goal is to continue to work closely with PennDOT to improve the visitor experience,” states Mr. Carl. “In the future we anticipate improved signage on the Turnpike toll-booths and on the major highways approaching the park.”



A damaged sign (left) on North Gulph Road has been replaced with a new brown sign (right) thanks to the joint efforts of park staff and PennDOT.



# The Friends of Valley Forge

After serving for over 25 years, Connie Jamieson has been honored with the title of Chairman Emeritus. Under her leadership and guidance, The Friends has kept a dedicated presence in Valley Forge, consistently supporting the park. Thank you, Connie, for your faithfulness and all you have done for Valley Forge National Historical Park.

We’ve moved! The Friends new offices are located in the David Potts House, near Washington’s Headquarters. Thanks to Kimberly Szweczyk, Ron Boice, and the entire park maintenance staff for their efforts and assistance!

Elected at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The Friends of Valley Forge:

Bruce Baky, Chairman	John Blumberg, 1st Vice Chair
Nancy Loane, 2nd Vice Chair	Frederick Bluefeld, Treasurer
Rudolph Cusumano, Trustee	Ashley Hunter, Trustee
Linda Riley, Trustee	Connie Jamieson, Trustee
	Ann Kelly, Trustee

# Volunteer Spotlight



**Name:** Bruce A. Baky, recently elected Chair of the Friends of Valley Forge

**Residence:** Bryn Mawr, PA

**Special Interests:** The Eighteenth Century Atlantic World; American football; travel; food; and sailing

**How long have you volunteered at Valley Forge?** 7 years

**What are some of the most interesting things you’ve done in your life?** Working with the Smithsonian to build the new Udvar-Hazy Museum in Chantilly, VA; or rebuilding the 1758 Old Barracks in Trenton, NJ; or working with the French government and the Comedie Francaise to stage the Treaty of Versailles ceremonies.

**What else would you like to try?** Return to Australia and make it to Perth.

**What goals do you have for the Friends of Valley Forge?** I hope to see our organization rise to the same level in national stature for the American Revolution as the Friends of Gettysburg have for the Civil War.



The David Potts House, located at the intersection of Routes 23 and 252, now hosts office space for park partners.